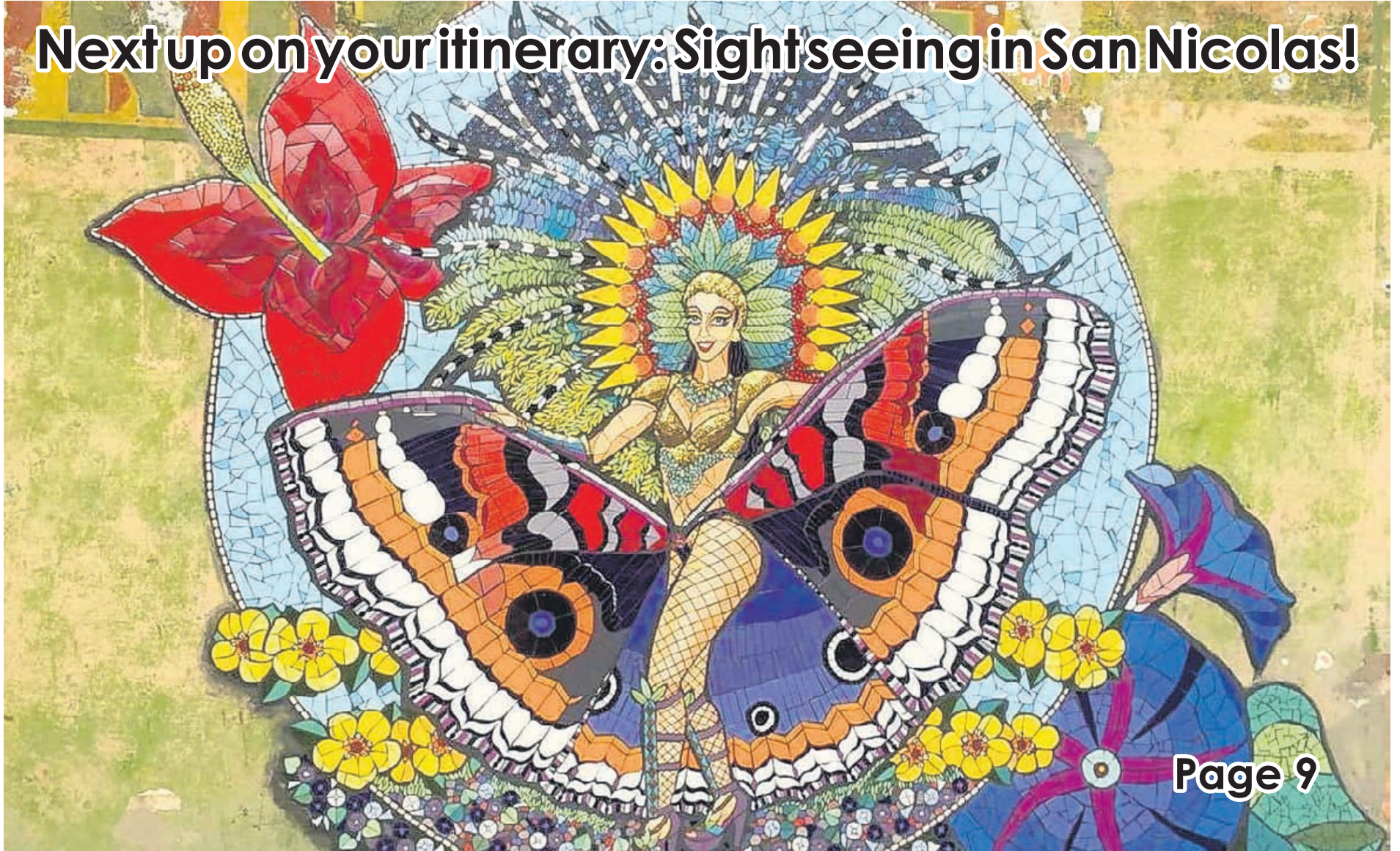




Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## Next up on your itinerary: Sightseeing in San Nicolas!



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# Police report reveals assault allegations against Hegseth, Trump's pick for defense secretary

By **MARTHA MENDOZA, BRIAN SLODYSKO and JULIET LINDERMAN**

**Associated Press**

**SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) —**

A woman told police that she was sexually assaulted in 2017 by Pete Hegseth after he took her phone, blocked the door to a California hotel room and refused to let her leave, according to a detailed investigative report made public late Wednesday.

Hegseth, a former Fox News personality and President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to be defense secretary, told police at the time that the encounter had been consensual and denied any wrongdoing, the report said.

News of the allegations surfaced last week when local officials released a brief statement confirming that a woman had accused Hegseth of sexual assault in October 2017 after he had spoken at a Republican women's event in Monterey.

"The matter was fully investigated and I was completely cleared," Hegseth told reporters Thursday at the Capitol, where he was meeting with senators to build support for his nomination.

The report does not say that police found the allegations were false. Police recommended the case report be forwarded to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office for review.

Tim Palatore, Hegseth's attorney, has said the woman was paid an undisclosed sum in 2023 as part of a confidential settlement to head off the threat of what he described as a baseless lawsuit.

The 22-page police report was released in response to a public records request and offers the first detailed account of what the woman alleged to have transpired — one that is at odds with Hegseth's version of events. The report cited police interviews with the alleged victim, a nurse who treated her, a hotel staffer, another woman at the



**Pete Hegseth, President-elect Donald Trump's pick for secretary of defense, speaks with reporters following a meeting with senators on Capitol Hill, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, in Washington.**

**Associated Press.**

event and Hegseth.

The woman's name was not released, and The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually assaulted.

A spokeswoman for the Trump transition said Thursday that the "report corroborates" what Hegseth's legal team has been saying "all along."

Investigators were first alerted to the alleged assault, the report said, by a nurse who called them after a patient requested a sexual assault exam. The patient told medical personnel she believed she was assaulted five days earlier but couldn't remember much about what had happened. She reported something may have been slipped into her drink before ending up in the hotel room where she said the assault occurred.

Police collected the unwashed dress and underwear she had worn that night, the report said.

The woman's partner, who was staying at the hotel

with her, told police that he was worried about her that night after she didn't come back to their room. At 2 a.m., he went to the hotel bar, but she wasn't there. She made it back a few hours later, apologizing that she "must have fallen asleep." A few days later, she told him she had been sexually assaulted.

The woman, who helped organize the California Federation of Republican Women gathering at which Hegseth spoke, told police that she had witnessed the TV anchor acting inappropriately throughout the night and saw him stroking multiple women's thighs. She texted a friend that Hegseth was giving off a "creeper" vibe, according to the report.

After the event, the woman and others attended an after-party in a hotel suite where she said she confronted Hegseth, telling him that she "did not appreciate how he treated women," the report states.

A group of people, including Hegseth and the

woman, decamped for the hotel's bar. That's when "things got fuzzy," the woman told police.

She remembered having a drink at the bar with Hegseth and others, the police report states. She also told police that she argued with Hegseth near the hotel pool, an account that is supported by a hotel staffer who was sent to handle the disturbance and spoke to police, according to the report.

Soon, she told police, she was inside a hotel room with Hegseth, who took her phone and blocked the door with his body so that she could not leave, according to the report. She also told police she remembered "saying 'no' a lot," the report said.

Her next memory was of lying on a couch or bed with a bare-chested Hegseth hovering over her, his dog tags dangling, the report states. Hegseth served in the National Guard, rising to the rank of major.

After Hegseth finished, she recalled he threw a towel

at her and asked if she was "OK," the report states. She told police she did not recall how she got back to her own hotel room and had since suffered from nightmares and memory loss.

At the time of the alleged assault, Hegseth, now 44, was going through a divorce with his second wife, with whom he has three children. She filed for divorce after he had a child with a Fox News producer who is now his third wife, according to court records and social media posts by Hegseth. His first marriage ended in 2009, also after infidelity by Hegseth, according to court records.

Hegseth, who joined Fox News as a contributor in 2014 before becoming co-host of "Fox & Friends Weekend," left the network after Trump announced his intention to nominate him. Hegseth said he attended an after party and drank beer but did not consume liquor, and acknowledged being "buzzed" but not drunk.

He said he met the woman at the hotel bar, and she led him by the arm back to his hotel room, which surprised him because he initially had no intention of having sex with her, the report said.

Hegseth told investigators that the sexual encounter that followed was consensual, adding that he explicitly asked more than once if she was comfortable. Hegseth said in the morning the woman "showed early signs of regret," and he assured her that he wouldn't tell anyone about the encounter.

Hegseth's attorney said a payment was made to the woman as part of a confidential settlement a few years after the police investigation because Hegseth was concerned that she was prepared to file a lawsuit that he feared could have resulted in him being fired from Fox News, where he was a popular host. The attorney would not reveal the amount of the payment. □



# Texas offers Trump land on US-Mexico border for potential mass deportations

By VALERIE GONZALEZ

Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) —

Texas is offering a parcel of rural ranchland along the U.S.-Mexico border to use as a staging area for potential mass deportations under President-elect Donald Trump. The property, which Texas originally purchased last month, is located in rural Starr County in the Rio Grande Valley. Republican Dawn Buckingham, the Texas Land Commissioner, sent a letter Nov. 14 to Trump extending the offer.

"We do hear through back channels that they are taking a look at it and considering it. But we just want them to know we're a good partner. We're here. We want to be helpful," Buckingham told The Associated Press in an interview on Wednesday.

The property has no paved roads and sits in a county with one public hospital and limited local resources. But Buckingham stressed its location.

"We feel like this is actually very well-located. The land is very flat there. It's adjacent to major airports. It's



Texas state Sen. Dawn Buckingham speaks during the Save America Rally, Jan. 29, 2022, in Conroe, Texas.

also adjacent to a bridge over the river," Buckingham said. "So if it's helpful, then I would love to partner up with the federal government. And if it's not, then we'll continue to look to ways to be helpful to them." The land offer is the latest illustration of a sharp divide

between states and local governments on whether to support or resist Trump's plans for mass deportations of migrants living in the U.S. illegally.

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles City Council voted to become a "sanctuary" jurisdiction, limiting coopera-

tion with federal immigration authorities to carry out deportations.

Texas leaders have long backed aggressive measures on the border to curb crossings, including installing razor-wire barriers and passing a law last year that would allow law enforce-

ment to arrest migrants who cross the border illegally.

"By offering this newly-acquired 1400-acre property to the incoming Trump Administration for the construction of a facility for the processing, detention, and coordination of what will be the largest deportation of violent criminals in our nation's history, I stand united with President Donald Trump to ensure American families are protected," Buckingham said in an earlier statement.

Trump has said he plans to begin his deportation efforts on the first day of his presidency.

He frequently attacked illegal immigration during his campaign, linking a record spike in unauthorized border crossings to issues ranging from drug trafficking to high housing prices.

There are an estimated 11 million people in the country illegally. Questions remain about how people would be identified and where they would be detained. The president-elect's transition team did not say whether they would accept Texas' offer but sent a statement. □

Associated Press.

# Wisconsin kayaker who faked his own death has told investigators how he did it, sheriff says

By TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

GREEN LAKE, Wis. (AP) —

A Wisconsin man who faked his own drowning this summer so he could abandon his wife and three children has been communicating with authorities daily from Eastern Europe, even telling them how he did it, but has not committed to returning home, a sheriff said Thursday.

Ryan Borgwardt has been talking with authorities since Nov. 11, Green Lake County Sheriff Mark Podoll said at a news conference. The sheriff showed a video that Borgwardt sent the sheriff's office that day. His investigators don't know exactly where he is, Podoll said, but it was somewhere in Eastern Europe.

Borgwardt, wearing an orange T-shirt and not smiling, looked directly into the camera in the video, which appears to have been taken on his phone. Borgwardt said he was in his apartment and briefly panned the camera to show the inside, but mostly showed just a door and bare walls.

"I'm safe and secure, no problem," Borgwardt said. "I hope this works."

Borgwardt has supplied authorities with details about how he faked his death and fled, Podoll said. He traveled about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from his home in Watertown to Green Lake, where he overturned his kayak, dumped his phone in the lake and then paddled an inflatable boat to shore. He told authorities he picked that lake because it's the deepest in Wisconsin at 237 feet (over 72 meters).

After leaving the lake, he rode an electric bike about 70 miles (110 kilometers) through the night to Madison, the sheriff said. From there, he took a bus to Detroit, then boarded a bus to Canada and got on a plane there, the sheriff said.

Police were still verifying Borgwardt's description of what happened, Podoll said.

"The great news is we know that he is alive and well," Podoll said. "The bad news is we don't know where Ryan exactly is, and he has not yet decided to return home." □



This image made from a WKOW video shows Green Lake County Sheriff Mark Podoll speaking at a news conference Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, about authorities' belief that a Wisconsin man faked his own drowning this summer so he could abandon his family and flee to eastern Europe.

Associated Press.



# North Korea and Russia agree to expand their economic cooperation

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**

**Associated Press**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**

— North Korea and Russia reached a new agreement for expanding economic cooperation following high-level talks in Pyongyang this week, the North's state media said Thursday, as they continue to align in the face of their confrontations with Washington.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency didn't elaborate on the details of the agreement signed Wednesday between its senior trade officials and a Russian delegation led by Alexander Kozlov, the country's minister of natural resources and ecology.

The Russian news agency Tass on Tuesday said officials following an earlier round of talks agreed to increase the number of charter flights between the countries to promote tourism.

Kozlov, who arrived in North Korea on Sunday, met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top eco-



**Russia's natural resources minister Alexander Kozlov, right, is greeted by Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations, as the Russian delegation leave Pyongyang Airport in Pyongyang, on Nov. 16, 2023.**

conomic official, Premier Kim Tok Hun, before returning home on Wednesday, KCNA said. During Kozlov's visit, Russian President Vladimir Putin's gifted Pyongyang's Central Zoo with more than 70 animals, including lions, bears and several species of birds, according to Tass, in another display of the countries'

growing ties.

Kim Jong Un in recent months has prioritized relations with Moscow as he attempts to break out of international isolation and strengthen his footing, actively supporting Putin's war on Ukraine while portraying the North as a player in a united front against Washington.

Kim has yet to directly acknowledge that he has been providing military equipment and troops to Russia to support its fighting against Ukraine. South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing on Wednesday that an estimated 11,000 North Korean soldiers in late October

were moved to Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops seized parts of its territory this year, following their training in Russia's northeast.

The spy agency believes the North Korean soldiers were assigned to Russia's marine and airborne forces units and some of them have already begun fighting alongside the Russians on the frontlines, said Lee Seong Kweun, a lawmaker who attended the meeting. U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian officials have claimed that the North has also been supplying Russia with artillery systems, missiles and other equipment. North Korea would be possibly getting anywhere between \$320 million to \$1.3 billion annually from Russia for sending its troops to Ukraine, considering the scale of the dispatch and the level of payments Russia has been providing to foreign mercenaries, according to a recent study by Lim Soo-ho, a South Korean analyst at an NIS-run think tank. □

**Associated Press.**

# Congolese police arrest 6 suspects over break-in into mausoleum of late independence hero Lumumba

By **JEAN-YVES KAMALE**

**Associated Press**

**KINSHASA, Congo (AP)**

— Congolese police have arrested six people over a break-in and vandalism earlier this week at the mausoleum of the country's assassinated independence leader Patrice Lumumba in Congo's capital, Kinshasa.

During the break-in on Monday, a case containing a single gold-capped tooth the only part of the former leader that remained after his assassination was broken by the vandals, according to authorities. It wasn't immediately clear what happened to the tooth.

Police announced the six arrests late Wednesday and said they were still looking for two more suspects. Jacquemin Shabani, the

country's interior minister, told reporters that Lumumba's tooth was not damaged during the break-in. "We assure that the relic is secure and it is protected," the minister said, without offering more information.

The return of Lumumba's tooth from former colonizer Belgium in 2022 had been celebrated around Congo, with the tooth taken around the vast country so people could pay their respects.



**Workers stand by a memorial for Democratic Republic of the Congo independence hero Patrice Lumumba, in Kinshasa, Congo, June 20, 2022.**

**Associated Press.**

"We are happy that the perpetrators of this act have been arrested," Jean-Jacques Lumumba, one of Lumumba's grandsons, told The Associated Press over the phone.

"But we regret that the mausoleum has been abandoned by the country's authorities," he added. "What is certain is that the relic is in a very secure place that we cannot name at this time."

Lumumba is widely hailed as the nationalist activist who helped end colonial rule. He became Congo's first prime minister and was seen as one of Africa's most promising new leaders, but he was assassinated within a year in 1961.

His body was dismembered and dissolved with acid in an apparent effort to keep any grave from becoming

a pilgrimage site.

For many in Congo, Lumumba is a symbol of the positive developments the country could have achieved after its independence. Instead, it became mired in decades of dictatorship that drained its vast mineral riches.

A military coup toppled Lumumba, who was arrested, jailed and later killed. His assassination, blamed on separatists, cleared the way for the rise of Mobutu Sese Seko, who ruled the country he later renamed Zaire for decades with support from Western powers until his death in 1997.

Even though Lumumba's killers were Congolese, questions have persisted over the complicity of Belgium and the United States because of his perceived Communist ties. □



# Volcano on Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula erupts for the 7th time in a year

By **MARCO DI MARCO and DAVID KEYTON**  
**Associated Press**

**GRINDAVÍK, Iceland (AP)** —

A volcano in southwestern Iceland that has roared back to life after eight centuries of silence has erupted for the seventh time since December, sending molten lava flowing towards the Blue Lagoon spa, a major tourist attraction.

The eruption on the Reykjanes Peninsula started with little warning at 11:14 p.m. (2314 GMT) Wednesday and created a fissure around 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) long. The activity is estimated to be considerably smaller than the previous eruption in August, according to Iceland's meteorological office that monitors seismic activity.

Most of the previous eruptions have subsided within days.

"In the big picture, this is a bit smaller than the last eruption, and the eruption that occurred in May," Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson, a professor of geophysics who flew over the scene with the Civil Protection agency to moni-



**A new volcanic eruption that started on the Reykjanes Peninsula in Iceland, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.**

for the event, told national broadcaster RUV.

While the eruption poses no threat to air travel, authorities warned of gas emissions across parts of the peninsula, including the nearby town of

Grindavík, which was largely evacuated a year ago when the volcano came to life after lying dormant for 800 years.

Around 50 houses were evacuated after the Civil

Protection agency issued the alert, along with guests at the Blue Lagoon. By Thursday afternoon lava had spread across parking lot of the geothermal spa, one of Iceland's biggest tourist at-

tractions, consuming a service building.

Lava also reached the pipeline that supplies the peninsula with hot water for heating, the meteorological office said, though the pipes were built to withstand lava flow. The repeated volcanic eruptions close to Grindavík, which is about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of the capital, Reykjavik, and had a population before the eruptions of 3,800, have damaged infrastructure and property, forcing many residents to relocate to guarantee their safety.

"Grindavík is not in danger as it looks and it is unlikely that this crack will get any longer, although nothing can be ruled out," Magnús Tumi said.

Iceland, which sits above a volcanic hot spot in the North Atlantic, averages one eruption every four to five years. The most disruptive in recent times was the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which spewed clouds of ash into the atmosphere and disrupted trans-Atlantic air travel for months. □

**Associated Press.**

# Australian teen and British woman who drank tainted alcohol in Laos have died, bringing toll to 5

By **DAVID RISING and JIN-TAMAS SAKSORNCHAI**

**Associated Press**

**VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)** — An Australian teenager and a British woman have died after drinking tainted alcohol in Laos in what Australia's prime minister on Thursday said was every parent's nightmare.

An American and two Danish tourists also died, officials said, following reports that several people had been sickened in a Laotian town popular with backpackers. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told Parliament that 19-year-old Bianca Jones had died after being evacuated from Vang Vieng, Laos for treatment in a Thai hospital. Her friend, also 19, remains hospitalized in neighboring Thailand.

"This is every parent's very

worst fear and a nightmare that no one should have to endure," Albanese said. "We also take this moment to say that we're thinking of Bianca's friend Holly Bowles who is fighting for her life." Later Thursday, the British government confirmed that a U.K. national also died of suspected methanol poisoning in Laos. The Foreign Office said "we are supporting the family of a British woman who has died in Laos, and we are in contact with the local authorities."

She was identified by British media outlets as 28-year-old Simone White, a lawyer with the firm Squire Patton Boggs. The victims are believed to have consumed drinks tainted with methanol, which is sometimes added to mixed-drinks at disreputable bars as a

cheaper alternative to ethanol, but can cause severe poisoning or death.

Telephone numbers listed for Laos' Health Ministry did not work and police refused to comment on the incident.

Australia said "several foreign nationals" had also been victims of methanol poisoning. The U.S. State Department confirmed that an American had also died in Vang Vieng, and Denmark's Foreign Ministry said two of its citizens had also died in "the incident in Laos," but neither would comment directly on a link to the methanol poisoning that killed Jones.

Shaun Bowles told reporters outside Bangkok Hospital on Wednesday that his daughter remained in critical condition and on life support. "We just like to

thank everyone from back home for all of the support and love that we're receiving," he said. "But we'd also like the people to appreciate right now, we just need privacy so we can spend as much time as we can with Holly."

In a statement to the Mel-

bourne Herald Sun newspaper, Jones' family asked for privacy in their grief.

"She was surrounded by love, and we are comforted by the knowledge that her incredible spirit touched so many lives during her time with us," the family wrote. □



**Foreign tourists have a drink at a night club at Nana Backpack hostel in Vang Vieng, Laos, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024.**

**Associated Press.**



# A draft deal on climate money for developing world is silent on how much as UN summit nears end

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, SIBI ARASU and MICHAEL PHILLIS**

**Associated Press**

**BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) —**

Countries of the world took turns rejecting a new but vague draft text released early Thursday which attempts to form the spine of any deal reached at United Nations climate talks on money for developing countries to transition to clean energy and adapt to climate change.

The draft left out a crucial sticking point: how much wealthy nations will pay poor countries. A key option for the lowest amount donors are willing to pay was just a placeholder "X." Part of that is because rich nations have yet to make an offer in negotiations.

So the host Azerbaijan presidency managed to unite a fractured world on climate change, but only in their distaste for the plan. Negotiators at the talks known as COP29 in Baku are trying to close the gap between the \$1.3 trillion the developing world says is needed in climate finance and the few hundred billion that negotiators say richer nations have been prepared to give.

No figure for climate cash leaves many disappointed. Independent experts say that at least \$1 trillion is needed in finance to help transition away from planet-warming fossil fuels and toward clean energy like solar and wind, better adapt to the effects of climate change and pay for losses and damages caused by extreme weather.

Colombia's environment minister Susana Mohamed said without a figure offered by developed nations, "we are negotiating on nothing."

Panama's Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez said the "lack of commitment transparency feels like a slap in the face to the most vulnerable."

"It is just utter disrespect to those countries that are bearing the brunt of this crisis," he said. "Developed



**Activists display signs that read "stop fueling genocide" during the People's Plenary at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

countries must stop playing games with our life and put a serious quantified financial proposal on the table." Gomez listed places where negotiators worked on the issue: South Africa, Germany, the Philippines, Egypt, Austria, Switzerland, Dubai, Colombia and a few times here in Baku, asking "For God's sakes, what's the next stop? Mars? Do we need to go to outer space to get a quantitative number from our developed countries to be able to start negotiating here?"

Esa Ainuu, from the small Pacific island of Niue also blasted the lack of a number in the draft deal.

"For us in the Pacific, this is critical for us," Ainuu said. "We can't escape to the desert. We can't escape somewhere else. This is reality for us. If finance is not bringing any positive, (then) why're we coming to COP?"

Mohamed Adow, director of the think tank Power Shift Africa, also expressed disappointment at the lack of a figure. "We need a cheque but all we have right now is a blank piece of paper," he said.

Iskander Erzini Vernoit, director of Moroccan climate think-tank Imal Initia-

tive for Climate and Development, said he was "at a loss for words at how disappointed we are at this stage to have come this far without serious numbers on the table and serious engagement from the developed countries."

Even United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "I don't think you can go on and on and on without clarifying the key aspects of the negotiation." Negotiators slam an 'unbalanced' draft

Lead negotiator Yalchin Rafiyev emphasized how balanced the plan was, but all sides kept saying it was anything but balanced and pointed time was running out.

"We would like to correct the balance. It is completely tilted," Pakistan delegate Romina Khurshid Alam said. The European Union's climate envoy Wopke Hoekstra called the draft "imbalanced, unworkable, and not acceptable."

And Xia Yingxian, a member of China delegation, also said the current draft text contains many "unsatisfied and unacceptable" parts.

In a statement, the COP29 Presidency stressed that the drafts "are not final."

"The COP29 Presidency's door is always open, and we welcome any bridging proposals that the parties wish to present," the Presidency said in a statement. It added that possible numbers for a finance goal will be in the next draft on Friday.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev convened the Qurultay a traditional Azerbaijani meeting where negotiators spoke to hear all sides and hammer out a compromise. He said that "after hearing all views, we will outline a way forward regarding future iterations." Nations big and small want more on slashing fossil fuels. Other areas that are being negotiated include commitments to slash planet-warming fossil fuels and how to adapt to climate change. But they've seen little movement.

European nations and the United States criticized the package of proposals for not being strong enough in reiterating last year's call for a transition away from fossil fuels.

"The current text offers no progress" on efforts to cut the world's emissions of heat-trapping gases, said Germany delegation chief Jennifer Morgan. "This can-

not and must not be our response to the suffering of millions of people around the world. We must do better."

U.S. climate envoy John Podesta said he was surprised that "there is nothing that carries forward the ... outcomes that we agreed on last year in Dubai." The United States, the world's biggest historic emitter of greenhouse gases, has played little role in the talks as it braces for another presidency under Donald Trump.

But members of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance such as Colombia, Ireland and Denmark, who are pushing for an end of fossil fuels, said the lack of wording on transitioning away from fossil fuels is not a deal killer for them.

Days earlier, the 20 largest economies met in Brazil and didn't mention the call for transitioning away from fossil fuels. Guterres, who was at that meeting, said official language is one thing, but reality is another. "There will be no way" the world can limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius "if there is not a phase out of fossil fuels," Guterres said at a Thursday news conference.

Also on Thursday, the EU, Mexico, Norway and several other countries announced they would release plans to rapidly cut emissions over the next decade to meet the landmark Paris agreement's goal of restraining global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times, although they did not detail how those cuts would happen.

Under the agreement, countries need to detail their voluntary plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by early next year.

"There is a real risk of falling short," said Tore Sandvik, Norway's minister of climate and environment. "We must reinforce the message that the Paris agreement is functioning as intended." □



## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

### Picuda, *Sphyrna barracuda*, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is *Sphyrna barracuda*. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

### Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper



one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

### In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is

also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

### Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

### Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wonder-



ing what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris





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## Aruba: the legend behind its name



**(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.**

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a

village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first in-

digenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names\*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

**Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock**



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## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

**SAN NICOLAS**— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated



in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for

the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep



brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

## How Aruban beaches came to be

**(Oranjestad)**—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

### How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years,

as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and

the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

### Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).





## Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

**Many years ago, Cha\* Tiger did not live in the mondi\*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.**

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said. "Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things. "You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense." "I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei\*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria\* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch. Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

**Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.**



## The Aruban Cunukero

### *From past to present*



**(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.**

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

**Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:**

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised

of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;

2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasant-ries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their his-

tory may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep live-

stock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henry E. red. □



**CROSSWORD**

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 41 Garden starters
  - 1 Umbrella parts
  - 5 Petty quarrels
  - 10 Honshu port
  - 12 Common eye color
  - 13 Caesar's language
  - 14 Plain silly
  - 15 Ignited
  - 16 Brief drop
  - 18 Pet perch
  - 19 Pink shade
  - 21 Posted
  - 22 Symbol of life
  - 24 Intense fear
  - 25 White-rooted biennial
  - 29 Green fruit
  - 30 England invader
  - 32 Swiss peak
  - 33 Gl-entertaining grp.
  - 34 Be a snoop
  - 35 Posts
  - 37 Racket
  - 39 Be of one mind
  - 40 Swagger

**DOWN**

- 1 Bakery buys
- 2 Old Testament prophet
- 3 Clash
- 4 Enjoy the slopes
- 5 Fleet unit
- 6 Piper of myth
- 7 Flowery shrub
- 8 Lease signer
- 9 Was out
- 11 Neighbor of Spain
- 17 Rounds makers
- 20 "Picnic" role
- 21 Passover meal
- 23 Simian subset
- 25 Cow chow
- 26 Strike caller
- 27 Kingdom
- 28 St. Paul's birth-place
- 29 Eastern monks
- 31 Moscow denials
- 33 Calls on
- 36 Was a pioneer
- 38 Mel of the Giants

C	A	S	T	E	M	A	R	T	S
A	R	M	E	D	A	L	O	H	A
M	O	O	N	S	U	T	U	R	N
E	M	O	E	N	R	A	G	E	D
R	A	T	L	I	E	H	A	Y	
A	S	H	Y	B	E	A	S	T	
	S	E	C	N	I	L			
T	A	P	A	S	M	E	S	H	
F	R	I	S	I	S	D	E	E	
L	I	L	L	I	A	N	D	A	D
A	V	I	A	N	I	C	I	N	G
P	I	N	T	O	D	A	N	C	E
S	A	G	E	S	E	D	G	E	S

**Yesterday's answer**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13					14				
15				16	17			18	
19			20				21		
	22				23				
			24						
	25	26					27	28	
29				30					31
32			33				34		
35			36			37	38		
39					40				
41						42			

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**5-4 CRYPTOQUOTE**

XES QSRU WTOGJ UE DT RUHWW  
HJ ULT QHPRU EA OKUHMHUX  
OJP UE DT MHDGOJUWX OWHMT

HJ GTNERT. — HJPHGO FOJPLH  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MOST OF THE TROUBLE IN THE WORLD IS CAUSED BY PEOPLE WANTING TO BE IMPORTANT. — T.S. ELIOT

**SUDOKU**

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

**King Classic Sudoku**

	5					9	1	
							2	
	2		9	3				
			7		6	4		8
	8	7	5					9
3	1		8		4		2	
						9	1	6
		9	1	8	5			
		3		6	9			

Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/22

**Answer to previous puzzle**

7	1	4	9	3	2	5	6	8
2	8	5	6	7	4	1	9	3
9	6	3	5	8	1	7	2	4
6	4	8	7	2	5	9	3	1
1	2	7	3	9	6	4	8	5
5	3	9	4	1	8	6	7	2
8	5	1	2	6	7	3	4	9
4	9	6	8	5	3	2	1	7
3	7	2	1	4	9	8	5	6

Difficulty: ★★★

11/21

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

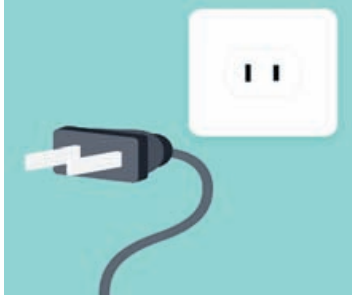
**Supermarket hours**



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

**Electrical power**



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

**Drinking water**



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

**Safety**



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# \$344 for a coffee? Scottish farm is selling UK's most expensive cup



This undated handout photo shows farmer and owner of Mossiel Organic Farm Bryce Cunningham, right, giving a bottle of milk to barista Jacob Smith, as they pose outside The Good Coffee Cartel in Glasgow, Scotland.

Associated Press.

By **BRIAN MELLEY**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — It's an enormous price to pay for a little cup of coffee, but the man behind the pitch promises it won't leave a bitter taste behind because it comes with a sweetener: a share of a dairy farm.

A Scottish dairy is offering what it bills as the U.K.'s most expensive cup o' joe: 272 British pounds (\$344) for a flat white a double shot of espresso topped with a layer of steamed milk and a fleeting work of foam art. The costly cup is actually a perk for purchasing shares in Mossiel Organic Dairy's crowdfunding campaign to enlarge its sustainable operation and produce more milk. Investors who buy 34 shares in the farm get a certificate for a flat white that can be redeemed starting this weekend at one of 13 coffee shops in Scotland that use the dairy's milk.

"This coffee costs nearly 80 times the price of an average flat white in the U.K. — but it's much more than just a lovely drink," said owner Bryce Cunningham. "We know it sounds crazy, but when you break it down, it's a pretty good

deal. How much is the future of farming worth?"

The price tops the eye-watering 265 pounds that Shot London, a coffee bar in the posh Mayfair and Marylebone neighborhoods, charged for a flat white made with rare beans from Okinawa, Japan. The Telegraph reported in April that it was the most expensive coffee in Britain.

Before launching the coffee promotion, Cunningham had already raised more than a third of the 300,000 pounds he is seek-

ing from small investors as he tries to get a 900,000 pound loan that will help him double operations and expand out of Scotland and as far as coffee shops in London.

Shareholders receive other rewards, too, such farm tours, milk delivery discounts and invites to special events. But investors are also given a standard warning that they could lose some or all of the money they invest except for the coffee.

The tenant farm in Mauch-

line, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Glasgow, was worked in the 18th century by poet Robert Burns, who penned "Auld Lang Syne" and many other well-known works. Burns, who is considered the national poet of Scotland, wrote while working in the fields there for two years and his face graces each glass bottle of Mossiel milk.

Cunningham, a former service manager for Mercedes-Benz, took over the operation in 2014 after his father and grandfather died in 2014 from terminal illnesses. The collapse of milk prices that year and other problems forced him to sell off most of the herd and reinvent the business as an organic farm. He uses a process to "brew" the milk, instead of pasteurize it, that he said gives it the creamer taste and texture of raw milk without the health risks. □



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**

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# Alec Baldwin film 'Rust' has world premiere with dedication to cinematographer killed on set

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

**TORUN, Poland (AP)** — Alec Baldwin's Western "Rust" had its world premiere Wednesday at a film festival in Poland with a dedication to cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, who was fatally shot in an accident on the set three years ago. Organizers called for a minute of silence before showing the film, which opened to a full house at the International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography Camerimage in the city of Torun, and received applause at the end.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer, was pointing a gun at Hutchins during a rehearsal outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, in October 2021 when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer but not the trigger and the revolver fired.

Souza introduced the film at the festival, a popular industry event dedicated to cinematography. He told the audience that initially after the accident he could not have imagined continuing with the production, or even working on a movie set or writing again.

"It just hurt too much," he said.

But Hutchins' husband, Matthew, wanted the film to be finished, and came on as an executive producer.

"It was important to him that the people who knew and loved Halyna get to see her final work," Souza said. The mission became "to preserve every single frame that I could of hers, and to honor her final work."

"Rust" which includes scene after scene of shootouts is the story of a 13-year-old boy who is sentenced to be hanged after he fatally shoots a rancher by accident. He goes on the run with his estranged grandfather, played by Baldwin.

Bianca Cline, the cinematographer who finished the



A musician plays a violin behind a photograph of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a vigil in her honor in Albuquerque, N.M., Oct. 23, 2021.



Director Joel Souza, left, and cinematographer Bianca Cline, right, attend the premiere of the film 'Rust' during the 32nd Camerimage International Film Festival in Torun, Poland, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

Associated Press.

project, said Hutchins established the look and feel of the film, and filmed more than half of it. She studied Hutchins' notes to honor her vision.

Hutchins, 42, was a Ukrainian cinematographer on the rise and a mother of a young son. She grew up on a remote Soviet military base and worked on documentary films in Eastern Europe before studying film in Los Angeles and embark-

ing on a promising movie-making career.

Ahead of the premiere, Hutchins' mother, who is suing Baldwin and the production, said she was refusing to attend and that she viewed the film as an attempt by Baldwin to "unjustly profit" from her daughter's death. Baldwin was also not present.

"It was always my hope to meet my daughter in Poland to watch her work

come alive on screen," said Hutchins' mother, Olga Solovey, in a statement issued by her lawyer, Gloria Allred. "Alec Baldwin continues to increase my pain with his refusal to apologize to me and his refusal to take responsibility for her death." Melina Spadone, a representative for Rust Movie Productions, issued a statement saying: "Gloria Allred's misrepresentation of both the Camerimage festival and any profit motivation is disappointing. The decision to complete 'Rust' was made with the full support of Halyna's family."

"The Camerimage festival celebrates the artistry of cinematographers; it is not a festival for buyers. None of the producers of Rust stand to benefit financially from the film.

The suggestion that those involved in completing Halyna Hutchins' film were motivated by profit is disrespectful to those who worked tirelessly to honor her legacy."

Filmmaker Rachel Mason, a friend of Hutchins who was tapped by Matthew Hutchins to make a documentary about his late wife, told the audience that Solovey told her that she wanted the film to be completed because of

how important the project was to her daughter.

Mason also described all those who continued to work on the film after the tragedy on set as "heroic." "You could just feel and see the trauma that they had gone through," she said.

"Halyna didn't get the chance to do the biggest films that she was expected to do, that we all knew she would. 'Rust' was that film. 'Rust' was going to change her life but instead it took her life. And the people that feel the pain of that most are the people that made the film," Mason said. "I really hope the world can understand that it was a courageous act to complete this film."

A New Mexico judge dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin in the fatal shooting. The case was thrown out halfway through trial on allegations that police and prosecutors withheld evidence from the defense.

The film armorer, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, received the maximum sentence of 18 months in jail for involuntary manslaughter. A judge found that her recklessness amounted to a serious violent offense. Prosecutors blamed Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition onto the set of "Rust," where it was expressly prohibited, and for failing to follow basic gun-safety protocols.

This year's Camerimage festival, where Cate Blanchett is serving as jury president, has already been beset by controversy.

"Blitz" director Steve McQueen dropped out of the festival to protest an editorial about female cinematographers written by festival founder Marek Żydowicz in which he argued that greater representation of female cinematographers could lead to mediocrity.

Director Coralie Fargeat pulled her film "The Substance" due to the comments, which led to protests by several cinematography groups. Żydowicz has since apologized. □



# Australia beats the United States at the Davis Cup to reach the semifinals

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

MALAGA, Spain (AP) —

Australia reached the Davis Cup semifinals for the third consecutive year, eliminating the United States 2-1 when Matt Ebden and Jordan Thompson beat the surprise, last-minute pairing of Ben Shelton and Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-4 in the deciding doubles match on Thursday.

The victory on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martina Carpena in southern Spain means 28-time Davis Cup champion Australia will face defending champion Italy or Argentina on Saturday for a spot in the final of the annual team competition.

The other semifinal, to be contested Friday, is the Netherlands against Germany. The Dutch got past Rafael Nadal and Spain in the quarterfinals earlier in the week, sending the 22-time Grand Slam champion into retirement.

The Australians were the runners-up the past two years, including in 2023 against Italy, which is led by No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner.



Australia's Athanasios Kokkinakis celebrates after winning against Ben Shelton of the United States during a Davis Cup quarterfinal match at the Martin Carpena Sports Hall, in Malaga, southern Spain, on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024.

The Americans own a record 32 Davis Cup titles but haven't been to the semifinals since 2018 and haven't claimed the title since 2007, their longest drought in the event.

The Shelton-Paul substitution for Paris Olympics silver medalists Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram was announced about 15 minutes

before the doubles match began. Ebden and John Peers beat Krajicek and Ram in the Summer Games final in August.

The Australians broke once in each set of the doubles. In the second, they stole one of Shelton's service games on the fourth break opportunity when Ebden's overhead smash made it

5-4. Thompson then served out the victory, closing it with a service winner before chest-bumping Ebden. The 21st-ranked Shelton made his Davis Cup debut earlier Thursday in singles against 77th-ranked Thanasi Kokkinakis, who emerged from a tight-as-can-be tiebreaker by saving four match points and eventu-

ally converting his seventh to win 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (14).

No. 4 Taylor Fritz, the U.S. Open runner-up, then pulled the Americans even with a far more straightforward victory over No. 9 Alex de Minaur, 6-3, 6-4.

Kokkinakis withstood 21 aces from Shelton, a big-serving left-hander who reached the U.S. Open semifinals in 2023.

When their match finally ended, on a backhand by Shelton that landed long, Kokkinakis dropped onto his back and pounded his chest. After he rose, he threw a ball into the stands, then walked over to Australia's sideline, spiked his racket and yelled, before hugging captain Lleyton Hewitt.

"I don't know if I've been that pumped up in my life. I wanted that for my team," said Kokkinakis, who won the 2022 Australian Open men's doubles title with Nick Kyrgios. "It could have gone either way, but I kept my nerve."

One key stat: Shelton finished with 29 unforced errors in his Davis Cup debut, nearly twice as many as the 15 by Kokkinakis. □

Associated Press.

# New Hampshire court hears cases on transgender girls playing girls sports and the right to protest

By KATHY McCORMACK and HOLLY RAMER

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Two lawsuits about transgender girl athletes one challenging a state ban at schools and the other on the right to protest transgender athletes' participation on girls teams were the subject of hearings in federal court in New Hampshire on Thursday.

The first case is about two transgender teen girls, one who played soccer on the girls team this fall and another who plans to participate on the track team this winter. A federal judge ruled earlier this year that the teens can try out for and play on girls school sports teams. The order only applies to those two individuals for now as they seek to overturn the Fairness in Women's Sports Act on behalf of all transgender girl students in New Hampshire.

Lawyers for the teens said in court Thursday they hoped the matter could go to trial and be resolved before the start of the next school year in September. They said the teens' school districts and others in the

state have asked for guidance regarding the law. Lawyers for the state said they needed more time to prepare.


Judge Talesha Saint-Marc suggested the timing of the trial was ambitious and asked that both sides talk further about scheduling. The law, signed by Gov. Chris Sununu in July, bans transgender athletes in grades 5 to 12 from teams that align with their gender identity. It requires schools to designate all teams as either girls, boys or coed, with eligibility determined based on students' birth certificates "or other evidence." Sununu had said it "ensures fairness and safety in women's sports by maintaining integrity and competitive balance in athletic competitions." About half of states have adopted similar measures. In the second case Thursday, a judge was expected to hear from school district officials in Bow defending their decision to bar parents from wearing pink wristbands with "XX" representing the female chromosomes at a girls high school soccer game in September. □



Two teens challenging New Hampshire's new law banning transgender girls from girls' sports teams, Parker Tirrell, third from left, and Iris Turmelle, sixth from left, pose with their families and attorneys in Concord, N.H., Monday, Aug. 19, 2024.

Associated Press.






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Carolina Panthers head coach Dave Canales attends a news conference after an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, in Munich, Germany.

Associated Press.



Carolina Panthers running back Chuba Hubbard runs past New York Giants safety Tyler Nubin during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, in Munich, Germany.

Associated Press.

## Mahomes, Chiefs look to rebound after loss as they face Panthers

### By The Associated Press

Kansas City (9-1) at Carolina (3-7)

Sunday, 1 p.m. EST, CBS.

BetMGM Odds: Chiefs by 11.

Against the spread: Chiefs 5-5, Panthers 3-7.

Series record: Chiefs lead 5-2.

Last meeting: Chiefs beat Panthers 33-31 on Nov. 8, 2020, at Kansas City.

Last week: Chiefs lost to Bills 30-21; Panthers had a bye after beating the Giants 20-17 in Germany in Week 10.

Chiefs offense: overall (16), rush (23), pass (11), scoring (11)

Chiefs defense: overall (5), rush (3), pass (17), scoring (8)

Panthers offense: overall (32), rush (24), pass (31), scoring (29)

Panthers defense: overall (29), rush (32), pass (24), scoring (32)

Turnover differential: Chiefs: minus-5; Panthers: minus-5.

### Chiefs player to watch

RB Isiah Pacheco and DE Charles Omenihu, assuming they play. Pacheco has been out with an ankle injury that required surgery in Week 2, forcing the Chiefs to sign Kareem Hunt and potentially creating a two-headed monster in the backfield if the all-energy Pacheco is back on the field. Omenihu would help a pass rush that failed to sack the Bills' Josh Allen last week. Omenihu has been out since having surgery to repair a torn ACL sustained in the playoffs.

### Panthers players to watch

RB Chuba Hubbard is coming off a career-high 153-yard rushing performance against the Giants prior to the bye and has been a big bright spot for Carolina. Hubbard has 818 yards and

six touchdowns rushing on the season, while averaging 5.1 yards per carry. Hubbard also has 30 receptions, including one TD catch. If the Panthers hope to upset the Chiefs, they'll need to rely on Hubbard as well as rookie Jonathon Brooks to have a big game in order to keep Patrick Mahomes off the field as much as possible. The problem is the Chiefs are third in the league against the run.

### Key matchup

Mahomes vs. Panthers secondary. Mahomes is expected to be plenty motivated following the Chiefs' loss to the Bills on Sunday. He'll face a Carolina secondary that has allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete 69% of their passes and 18 touchdown passes this season. Mahomes has thrown nine TD passes in the past four games.

### Key injuries

Everybody on the Chiefs practiced this week, making them one of the rare teams getting healthier as the season progresses. ... The Panthers expect to get LT Ikey Ekwonu (ankle) and WR Adam Thielen (hamstring) back from injuries. Also, rookie running back Jonathon Brooks is expected to make his NFL debut with RB Miles Sanders (ankle) out. Brooks tore his ACL during his final year of college football at Texas and hasn't played in a game since. Carolina TE Ian Thomas (calf) was placed on injured reserve earlier this week with a calf injury.

### Series notes

This will be Mahomes' first game ever at Bank of America Stadium. The Chiefs have won the past three matchups and the Panthers haven't defeated Kansas City since 2008.

### Stats and stuff

Mahomes threw three touchdown passes last week against Buffalo, his 40th game with at least that many. He needs four more TD passes to pass Hall of Fame QB Len Dawson (237) for the most in Chiefs history. ... Chiefs TE Noah Gray had two TD catches against the Bills. It was the first multi-TD game of his career. ... TE Travis Kelce has 76 TD catches, tied with Hall of Famer Tony Gonzalez for the Chiefs record. He needs five TDs total to pass Priest Holmes for that franchise record. ... Kelce needs 7 yards receiving to pass Antonio Gates (11,841) for the third-most yards receiving by a TE in NFL history. ... Chiefs DT Chris Jones has 78 1/2 sacks, tied with Justin Houston for fourth in team history. ... Chiefs K Spencer Shrader was 3 for 3 on PATs and did not attempt a FG against Buffalo in his first game since Harrison Butker when on IR with a knee injury. ... QB Bryce Young will make his fourth straight start. The No. 1 pick in the 2023 NFL draft is 4-17 overall as a starter, but enters the game having won back-to-back games. Young threw for 126 yards and one touchdown against the Giants in Week 10. ... Panthers rookie WR Xavier Legette has been targeted 17 times by Young in the past three games and has 11 receptions for 107 yards and two touchdowns. ... LB Josey Jewell had an interception and a fumble recovery in Carolina's win over the Giants. ... After misses by Harrison Butker and Jason Tucker in recent weeks, Carolina K Eddy Pineiro has taken over as the NFL's all-time most accurate field goal kicker. Pineiro has made 89.3% (101 of 113) of his career field goals. He is due to become an unrestricted free agent after the season. □